

Genl. Vannoy

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 51 of 1875.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 18th December, 1875.

[THE correspondence of the Indian Foreign Office with Sir Sálár Jung, on the subject of the attendance of the young Nizam at Bombay, observes the *Bhárat Sangskarak*, of the 3rd December, affords but another instance of the high-handedness and the undue interference made by the British Government in the affairs of Native Princes, while it fills us with regret at finding one more sad error committed during the administration of Lord Northbrook. If the attitude of Government towards the Nizam's court was not threatening and tyrannical, we do not know what else it was. This incident enables us, though but partially, to realize the degree of oppression practised on the unfortunate Mulharrao by Colonel Phayre, while the fact remains that all other Residents are very likely to act in the same way. They are, however, but tools in the hands of Government, which must be necessarily responsible for their acts. We have, for this reason, repeatedly asked Government to clearly define its relations with the Native Princes. In the absence of well defined limits governing the relations between them—that is, the degree of independence the Native Princes are to enjoy—there will always remain the probability of complications and misunderstandings. We would, of course, have nothing to say if it was the intention of Government to take advantage of these disagreements for extending its power and territories. But barring that, means should be used for enabling Native Chiefs to do their duties without being troubled by any of the fears or anxieties referred to.]

2. The *Burrisál Vártavaha*, of the 8th December, is gratified to read the recent Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the normal schools. It is of opinion, that the normal schools for the training of Guru maháshayas are of no use, and in maintaining them Government has been only incurring a waste of the public funds at its disposal. A large number of competent and tolerably educated men can always be found ready to do the work of the gurus. What, however, has been a real want is the absence of higher normal schools for training the pandits for the model and circle schools. This is specially felt to be the case in Burrisál, where pandits for the latter schools are very few, and have to be brought from other districts. It, therefore, behoves the Lieutenant-Governor to establish some first class normal schools in selected places in Eastern Bengal.

3. The *Vishwa Dút*, of the 8th December, regrets to notice that the profession of law is at the present time so over-stocked that with many pleaders and attorneys it has become a matter of extreme difficulty to eke out a livelihood. Such a state of things must be greatly deplored.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
December 3rd, 1875.

BURRISÁL  
VARTAVAHA,  
December 8th, 1875.

VISHWA DUT,  
December 8th, 1875.



AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 9th, 1875.

4. We take the following from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 9th December:—The Indigo planters would never have come to grief but for their oppressions. The loyalty of the people would not have been shaken if Mr. Stephen had not enacted his law of sedition. Were it not for the rigors of the Penal Code, the increase in the number of such crimes as perjury, fraud, forgery, murder, and suicide could not otherwise be easily accounted for; while Government itself would never have found its way so thickly strewn with thorns, if it had not sought to humble the natives of India by a rigorous system of administration. How happy both the rulers and the subjects were at one time under the British rule! But who has marred that happiness? Who awoke us from our blissful sleep? A jealous husband but too frequently tempts his chaste wife to go astray; unreasonable suspicions in a master may lead his devoted servant to have recourse to dishonesty; and the sovereign who may question the loyalty of his subjects very often comes at last to find them disloyal. This is the law of nature, and its consequences are unfailing. So long as Government observed this law, both itself and we were happy, but what unhappiness has been engendered by its neglect! Lord Northbrook affords a glaring instance of the truth of the remark that it is impossible for anybody at the present time to rule India with reputation to himself. To what an unpleasant state of circumstances has not Lord Northbrook, peaceful and liberal-hearted though he be, brought himself in the end? To gratify us, and make us happy, he sent Sir George Campbell away from this country; but now the people shudder to hear even *his* name repeated to them. The people of Manchester, for whose benefit he struck at the root of one of the chief sources of India's progress, are seeking to remove him from India. A mighty convulsion is raging in the heart of the country. In India, the British have violated the above law of nature, and have sought to throw her into inextricable confusion. It is this last circumstance that makes it very difficult to proceed smoothly. The Editor then dwells on the impropriety committed by Lord Northbrook in stopping the publication of the Report on Native Papers. When the people have so many grievances to complain of, it is but wise to allow them to ventilate them. Any strong measures on the part of Government to suppress them will only end in increasing the discontent of the people, for through the Native Press alone can Government be kept informed of their views and wishes.

DACCA DARSHAK,  
December 9th, 1875.

5. The *Dacca Darshak*, of the 9th December, asks Government to permit the continuance of the Kártik Bárui Melá in Moonshigunge in the Dacca District for a month and a half, instead of one month as recently ordered. The present order, if carried out, will occasion considerable loss and inconvenience to the Mahájans who come to the Melá from remote places, and who cannot possibly dispose of all their goods within so short a time.

DACCA DARSHAK.

6. The same paper complains that in lower civil courts justice is frequently sacrificed to haste towards the latter part of almost every month and every year, when the officers in charge are found to show extreme anxiety in punctually submitting their monthly and annual statements to their superiors. Everything is done in haste at these times, and owing to the careless manner in which suits are necessarily disposed of daily, many a suitor is ruined.

BURDWAN  
PRACHARIKA,  
December 10th, 1875.

7. The *Burdwan Pracharika*, of the 10th December, is highly gratified to read the recent Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the Police, and on the suppression of dacoities in the country. The able and energetic



manner in which His Honor has called upon all District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to attend to the matter leads us to hope that his suggestions will be acted on, and that thus the country will be freed from the prevalence of a crime which has been hitherto a disgrace to the administration.

8. The *Grāmavārtā Prabhāṣikā*, of the 11th December, remarks in reference to the mission of Sir Louis Mallet in India, that the question of continuing the protection to the cotton mills of Bombay now depends entirely on his report, which will doubtless be accepted and acted on by the British public. But though, according to the principles of free trade, Bombay would not be held entitled to protection, still a consideration of the commercial status of India will clearly show the need of continuing this privilege till such time as her commerce be placed on a firm and permanent footing. In order to afford a stimulus to the spirit of enterprise, we would rather like to see the continuance of this protection made for a limited period only.

GRĀMĀVARTĀ  
PRABHĀṢIKĀ,  
December 11th, 1875.

9. The *Hindu Hitopadeshini*, of the 11th December, directs the attention of Government to the advisability of placing the district of Noakhally under the Dacca Commissionership. This district is midway between Burrisal and Comillah, and if the proposal be carried out, the inhabitants will find it more convenient to go to Dacca than to Chittagong, which is further from Noakhally than the former.

HINDU HITOPADESHINI,  
December 11th, 1875.

10. The same paper laughs at the fact that the Government has thought it necessary to impress feelings of loyalty on the inhabitants of Calcutta by making proclamations to the effect "that they should always appear in public in decent clothes, and with cheerful faces, during the stay of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in Calcutta." It must be greatly amusing to find Government questioning the loyalty of the Bengalis, who are already an intensely loyal people, and seeking to make them loyal by official proclamations.

HINDU HITOPADESHINI.

11. The same paper notices with pleasure the fact of Sir Richard Temple's always consulting the opinion of the public on all proposals of public importance. After waiting for a long time to hear what those concerned had to say on the subject, His Honor has but recently passed the Mahomedan Marriage Registration Bill. This is a highly praiseworthy feature of the present administration. As to the Bill itself, the editor has not much to say, since the majority of the Mahomedans themselves have not thought proper to object to it. But in one point it would be well for Government to provide some safeguard, namely, that which has reference to the Kazis and Mollahs, the proposed registrars. Care should be taken, to see that these persons do not find opportunities for making extortions from, or shewing any rudeness to, parties intending to register their marriage.

HINDU HITOPADESHINI.

12. The *Sādhārāṇī*, of the 12th December, devotes a lengthy editorial to the subject of the mission of Sir Louis Mallet to India. The editor dwells on the difficulties of the Secretary of State, who finds himself placed in a very delicate position. While the powerful merchants of Manchester, to whom in a great measure the glories of England are due, are exerting all their influence to procure the abolition of the import duty levied in India on their cotton goods, the interests of India point entirely in a different direction, and can never be honestly overlooked by him whose duty it is to watch and foster them. Lord Northbrook again, though guilty of an act of injustice to India in imposing a duty on the import of long stapled

SĀDHĀRĀṆĪ,  
December 12th, 1875.



cotton, has, however, wisely recognised the need of extending protection to the Bombay mills to some extent. Now the mission of Sir Louis Mallet has been the outcome of these circumstances. If he can by any means solve the difficulty of the import duties, or manage the matter in some way in which neither Manchester nor India may have any cause for dissatisfaction, and in which the interests of the one shall not be sacrificed for the good of the other, the object of the Secretary of State in deputing a member of his own council to India will be gained. We earnestly pray that the Government of India be not led by a regard for influences which are hostile to the interests of the country committed to its charge to take any further false steps at this juncture.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
December 18th, 1876.

13. Adverting to the arguments employed by the *Englishman* in favor of the weekly reports on vernacular papers being circulated to the public, the *Soma Prakash* of the 13th December remarks that though the measure advocated by the *Englishman* would greatly benefit the native press, and therefore would receive our cordial support, still it is to be regretted that the grounds on which that advocacy has been based are not at all tenable. It has been supposed by our contemporary that the fact of the publication of the recent correspondence of the Foreign Office with Sir Salar Jung in one of the English papers unmistakably shows what means, since the stoppage in the circulation of the reports, are being now resorted to by natives of India who may be dissatisfied with Government for the ventilation of their grievances. The *Englishman* regards this appeal to the public opinion of England by natives as extremely undesirable. It is perhaps his wish that the British public should never be informed of the discontent of the Indian subjects, and that if the latter have any grievances to complain of, they should rather seek redress at the hands of the rulers they have among them than go to England for the purpose. But considering that it is the Anglo-Indians themselves of whom the natives complain, it would be absurd to put the former in the position of judges, in which, owing to their strong prepossessions against the latter, they are never fit to be placed. As natives can never expect justice at their hands, it is proper they should appeal to the impartial public opinion of England for the redress of their grievances.

SOMA PRAKASH.

14. The same paper hopes that Sir Richard Temple will accede to the reasonable proposals made in the influentially signed memorial of the rate-payers regarding the Calcutta municipality. It is a disgrace to the administration that the metropolis of British India does not enjoy the privilege of municipal self-government, and that the voice of its citizens is over-ruled by official despotism.]

SOMA PRAKASH.

15. The same paper, in noticing the Resolution of Government on the Police Department, remarks:—"The inefficiency of this expensive organization is really striking. This will, however, continue to be the case so long as honest men are not enlisted in its service, and so long as a check is not imposed on the corruption and bribery which so fearfully prevail here, by dispensing with the services of the large number of useless higher officers, and by increasing the salaries of their subordinates with the savings thus effected. The large increase in the number of crimes is chiefly due to the poverty of the majority of the people, who are almost entirely destitute of the means of living, and also in some measure to the utter want of confidence shown by the public in the members of the present police."



16. The *Sulabh Samachar*, of the 14th December, dwells on the propriety of circulating the Reports on Native papers to the public as before. This will enable Government to learn the views and wishes of the people, and thus to redress their grievances. SULABH SAMACHAR,  
December 14th, 1875.

17. With reference to the recent Tariff Bill and the endeavours of the Manchester people to have the duty on imported Manchester goods done away with altogether, or that an 'equivalent tax be levied on country cloths, the editor of the *Behar Bandhu* commences by remarking that it is an established and well-known rule of policy for a Government, which would secure its own safety and aid in the time of peril when attacked by a foreign foe, to make its subjects happy to such a degree that they would be ready to do anything for it in the time of trouble. The Marquis of Salisbury has sent out Sir Louis Mallet to Hindustan with the view of consulting with Lord Northbrook and amending the Tariff Bill. Our Governor-General has turned aside somewhat from seeking the welfare of the natives, and there can therefore now be no expectation of his turning the scale in our favor, and we are deeply grieved at heart at the evil prospect which henceforth lies before the art and industry of India. When the ruling power itself plants thorns in the way of advancement, who will come forward to the rescue? But one thing must be said,—since these foreign traders are of the same caste and race as the rulers of this land, they will expect to be assisted in their efforts. The English, however, are not our King. The law enacted by them under the enlightenments of the precepts of Jesus is our King. It behoves, then, the people of this country to be up and doing, and to appeal to the law which overrules even the king or the ruler who has enacted it. This cannot be done through the shrieks of one paper, but all the people should send forth one unanimous cry on the matter. BEHAR BANDHU,  
December 9th, 1875.

18. In another place this paper says that the English consider the natives to be liars, though up to the present they have not been able to prove the correctness of this assertion. Now, however, they may well be able to do so; for when Government desires to levy a tax, or solicits aid on behalf of the poor and afflicted, or for famine purposes, then it is that our well-to-do men shrink from the duty, alleging that they have no money or are burdened with debt. Now, however, with the approaching advent of the Prince of Wales, these people are going mad in their endeavours to honor him; so much so that they may be well compared to persons bidding at auction, for they are endeavouring to outdo one another in emptying their bags of wealth. Famine appears to be threatening again this year, and if they shrink from doing their duty in this matter, how will it be with them? BEHAR BANDHU.

The crops are perishing for want of rain, and every one is consequently anxious about the rubbee.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th December, 1875.

R. J. ELLIS,

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.



*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
18th December, 1875.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rājshāhye Samāchār" ...	Karachmāriā, Rājshāhye...	Weekly	3rd December.
2	"Bhārat Sangakārak" ...	Harināvi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto	3rd ditto.
3	"Suhrid" ...	Muktāgāchā, Mymensingh	Ditto	7th ditto.
4	"Vishwa Dāt" ...	Kāligāhāt, Calcutta	Ditto	8th ditto.
5	"Burrisāl Vārtāvahā" ...	Burrisāl	Ditto	8th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Bauleah, Rājshāhye	Ditto	8th ditto.
7	"Bangpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kākinīā, Bangpore	Ditto	9th ditto.
8	"Amrita Bāsār Patrikā" ...	Calcutta	Ditto	9th ditto.
9	"Dacca Darshak" ...	Dacca	Ditto	9th ditto.
10	"Burdwan Prachārikā" ...	Burdwan	Ditto	10th ditto.
11	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	Ditto	10th ditto.
12	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly	Ditto	11th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca	Ditto	11th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto	Ditto	12th ditto.
15	"Sādhārani" ...	Chinsurah	Ditto	12th ditto.
16	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Chingripotā, 24-Pergahs.	Ditto	13th ditto.
17	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	Ditto	13th ditto.
18	"Sulabh Samāchār" ...	Ditto	Ditto	14th ditto.
19	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto	Bi-Weekly	8th and 13th December.
20	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto	Daily	8th to 11th ditto.
21	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	Ditto	18th December.
22	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna	Weekly	8th ditto.
23	"Jām Jehān-numā" (in Persian) ...	Calcutta	Ditto	10th ditto.
24	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto	Ditto	11th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.